

Documents on Diplomacy: The Source

"Texians to Arms!"

From the U.S. Commercial Charge to the Republic of Texas, Galveston, March 10, 1842

Sir,
... The President and Secretary of State [of Texas] are in Galveston and are now engaged in issuing Orders to have the militia equipped and ready to march to any point and at any moment. News has reached here today by express that Sanantonia, about three hundred miles South \West from Galveston has been taken by the Mexican Army supposed to be twenty thousand strong. It is believed here that Corpus Christi seventy miles below here has fallen into the hands of the Mexicans, and great fears are entertained that they are in Austin before this time.

It has been rumored here for the last ten days, that the Mexicans were coming in great force, But the President did not believe the report, I however on yesterday addressed a letter to him, requesting to be informed whither he intended to remove the Archives of this Government from Austin a copy of which I herewith enclose for your inspection; I have received no written answer from the President as he has been much engaged but in a conversation with him this evening he informed me that he had given orders to have all the Archives removed forthwith. I have therefore considered it to be my duty to have the Archives of the United States belonging to this Legation removed; As the people here believe that the Mexicans will not respect the flag of the United States in Texas; I cannot myself entertain the least fears either for the Archives or for myself, or family.

I consider this Government in a most deplorable condition without a dollar in the Treasury and without credit to borrow

money here or abroad with not a regular Soldier belonging to the Army, and a very great excitement against the President for not having ordered out the militia previous to this time. . . . The people in almost every county have organized, armed and equipped themselves by voluntarily contribution and about two thousand are on their march to Sanantonia. At least two hundred Volunteers will leave this city tomorrow at their own expense it is said that the President has issued orders that no citizen is to leave this Island as he anticipates great danger of an attack upon Galveston; but the Volunteers will disregard the order. The district court was in session here but has adjourned this evening and the Judge with every member of the bar except one has volunteered and will leave here for the Army tomorrow.

I have never seen so much enthusiasm among any people. All seem to be anxious to meet the foe, and all seem to think that if they can embody five thousand Texians they can defeat twenty thousand Mexicans. . . .

Since my arrival at this place from Austin, the Merchants and traders, from the United States, have expressed great dissatisfaction at the advantages given by this Government to the commerce of France over that of the United States. On the 27th of February I addressed a note to Doctor Jones Secretary of State for Texas; on that subject. . . .

I have the honor to be Your Obt. Servt.,

JOSEPH EVE

Source

"Emperor Dead" and other Historic American Dispatches, Edited by
Peter D. Eicher, pp. 107–109; Washington, D.C.: 1997